
Preface

The first book solely focusing on the soils of Wisconsin was published in 1927 by A.R. Whitson—professor of soil science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He described the function of soils; climate, future agriculture, and forestry; and origin and classification of Wisconsin soils and gave detailed descriptions of 23 soil series from nine soil regions. In 1947, Dr. Charles Kellogg, who later became Director of the Soil Survey Division of the USDA, Soil Conservation, published a general overview of the soils of Wisconsin as a *Preliminary Study of the Profiles of the Principal Soil Types of Wisconsin*. In 1976, the University of Wisconsin Press published *Soils of Wisconsin* that was prepared by Dr. F.D. Hole. This book contained chapters on factors of soil formation, processes of soil formation, properties of Wisconsin soils, classification of soils, and soil associations within ten soil regions of the state and an appendix with soil descriptions and analytical data. This book included a soil map at a scale of 1:710,000.

This present book in a sense constitutes the fourth edition of the *Soils of Wisconsin*. The authors have benefitted from several decades of new research and from the digital age in which official soil descriptions, laboratory characterizations, soil classification data, and the Web Soil Survey are available which enabled us to provide an up-to-date analysis of the soils of the state of Wisconsin. Despite the demand for soils information, only 3 (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) of the 50 states in the USA have a general soil map published after 1999; and only 5 states (Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Washington) have a book published after 1999 compiling soils data for the state.

We hope this book will serve as a written and digital account on the soils from Wisconsin, as a reference book for soil science and related courses and as a compendium for land users, policymakers, and anyone interested in our soils. On Wisconsin!

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